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Declaration on cities and other human settlements in the new millennium

Draft report of the Ad Hoc Committee of the Whole

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Addendum

1. At its ... meeting, on ... June 2001, the Committee of the Whole considered paragraphs 8, 24, 33, 34 and 49 of the draft declaration on cities and other human settlements in the new millennium (A/S-25/2).

2. At the same meeting, the Committee approved the following amendments and recommended the paragraphs, as amended, to the special session for adoption:

(a) Paragraph 8 was replaced by the following paragraph:

"We commend the efforts by all levels of government, the United Nations, other intergovernmental organizations and Habitat Agenda partners as well as those by the Executive Director of United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) and welcome the progress made thus far towards implementation of the Habitat Agenda. We note with appreciation the national and regional reports on the implementation of the Habitat Agenda[1] and the report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) on the overall review and appraisal of progress made in the implementation of the Habitat Agenda (A/S-25/3), taking into account the specific priorities and objectives of each region, and in conformity with the legal framework and national policies of each country."

(b) Paragraph 24 was replaced by the following paragraph:

"We have identified considerable obstacles associated with limited economic, technological and institutional capacities at all levels of government, particularly in the developing and the least developed countries.

[1] These reports have been provided to the special session as information documents.

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We recognize the absence of comprehensive and inclusive policies for capacity-building institutions and their networking."

(c) Paragraph 33 was replaced by the following three paragraphs:

"We invite Governments, the United Nations and other international organizations to strengthen the quality and consistency of their support to poverty eradication and sustainable human settlements development, in particular to the least developed countries. This in turn requires not only renewed political will, but also the mobilization and allocation of new and additional resources at both the national and international levels. We urge the strengthening of international assistance to developing countries in their efforts to alleviate poverty, including by creating an enabling environment that would facilitate the integration of developing countries into the world economy, improving their market access, facilitating the flow of financial resources and implementing fully and effectively all initiatives already launched regarding debt relief.

"We emphasize that the international community should consider further measures, as appropriate, that would lead to durable solutions to the external debt burden of developing countries.

"In this connection, we express our appreciation to the developed countries that have agreed to and have reached the target of 0.7 per cent of their gross national product for overall official development assistance, and call upon developed countries that have not yet done so to strengthen their efforts to achieve the agreed target of 0.7 per cent as soon as possible and, where agreed, within that target, to earmark 0.15 per cent to 0.20 per cent of the gross national product for the least developed countries."

(d) Paragraph 34 was replaced by the following paragraph:

"We request the international community to strongly support poverty eradication, and welcome the ongoing consultations by the Secretary-General on the establishment of a world solidarity fund for poverty eradication to finance and realize, inter alia, the social policies and programmes of the Habitat Agenda to address challenges of poverty eradication and sustainable development in developing countries, especially the least developed countries, bearing in mind the voluntary nature of the contributions."

(e) Paragraph 49 was replaced by the following paragraph:

"We resolve to intensify efforts for ensuring transparent, responsible, accountable, just, effective and efficient governance of cities and other human settlements. We recognize that good governance, within each country and at the international level is essential to addressing the challenge of urban poverty as well as the challenge of environmental degradation and to harnessing the potential opportunities offered by globalization. Cities need specific approaches and methodologies to improve governance, to plan and act strategically in order to reduce urban poverty and social exclusion and to improve the economic and social status of all citizens and protect the environment in a sustainable way. In connection with this, we note the importance of promoting sustainable livelihoods through education and training, particularly for the poor and vulnerable groups."